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EXAMINER

RUDOLPH, VINCENT M

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/921,401

Applicant(s)

ANDO ET AL.

Examiner

Vincent M. Rudolph

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,9-20,23-27,35 and 36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,9-20,23-27,35 and 36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cook ('655).

Regarding claim 1, Cook ('655) discloses having an image printing system (kiosk, See Figure 1) with a main body (the self-service film processing system, See Figure 1, Element 100; Col. 3, Line 60-62) and a backyard printing part that is connected to the main body via a line (the printer is located in proximity to the system, such as a cashiers counter, in order to process the prints, See Col. 8, Line 40-47). The main body includes an image data inputting unit for inputting the image data (processing negative film, a scanner, storage media, and a digital camera, See Fig. 1, Device 118; Col. 6, Line 28-Col. 7, Line 7), a request inputting unit (customer input device, See Figure 1, Element 116) for inputting requests for an image to be outputted (lets the customers to input data or interact with the system, See Col. 6, Line 6-8), a display unit for displaying an image (monitor, See Figure 1, Element 102), an output content indicating data preparation unit (the touch screen monitor, See Figure 1, Element 102) to prepare the data content to be

outputted (the touch screen has the ability to display the images and allow the customer to choose the specific digital images outputted in several different forms, allows the image to be edited, See Fig. 1; Col. 4, Line 15-24, and also output the images back onto the storage media, See Fig. 1, Col. 9, Line 11-19). It also contains an output method choice unit (user selecting how and where to output the images, See Col. 7, Line 30-34) for selecting either instantaneous printing using the instantaneous printing unit (local printer, See Figure 1, Element 134a, to print the images instantaneously at the kiosk, See Col. 8, Line 41-44) or backyard printing (printed near the cashier's register, See Col. 8, Line 45-46). The main body also includes a private information inputting unit (payment system such as a card reader, See Figure 1, Element 112a) to input private information of the customer (payment cards contains private information of the customer, such as the card amount and credit/debit card number so that the main body of the printing system inputs this private information in order to process the customer data, See Col. 5, Line 9-14), and a receipt note issuing unit (receipt printer, See Figure 1, Element 112d) that is capable of outputting a receipt note which has information on it (the printing system is capable of identifying the customer by scanning the bar code of the receipt printed out in order for the customer to pay for service and receive the printed images, See Col. 5, Line 19-40). The backyard printing section includes the collation sheet printing unit (printed images), which has the customer identity information (after the printing system receives the customer identification, the clerk is capable of retrieving the images after scanning the bar code of the receipt so that the customer would be able to receive the prints that were ordered, See Col. 5, Line 29-40).

Regarding claim 2, Cook ('655) discloses using a scanner to input various forms of images directly at the kiosk to produce the digital image (See Figure 1, Element 118b; Col. 6, Line 39-42).

Regarding claim 3, Cook ('655) discloses using other forms for inputting images, such as an undeveloped film scanner, signal input for devices such as a digital camera, a storage media reader such as a CD, DVD, flash drive, and a floppy drive, as well as accessing images using the Internet from a communications network (See Figure 1, Element 118; Col. 6, Line 61-Col. 7, Line 2).

Regarding claim 4, Cook ('655) discloses the main body (the self-service film processing system, See Figure 1, Element 100; Col. 3, Line 60-62) and the backyard print are located in the same shop (they are located in the proximity to the film processing system, See Col. 8, 44-47).

Regarding claim 5, Cook ('655) discloses the main body (the self-service film processing system, See Figure 1, Element 100; Col. 3, Line 60-62) and the backyard print are connected through a network (the output device, See Figure 1, Element 124 includes a communications network, See Figure 1, Element 124a; Col. 7, Line 31-35).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 9-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook ('655) in view of Nishiwaki ('973).

Regarding claim 9, Cook ('655) discloses various ways to obtain the input data from the kiosk (a storage device, a scanner, a digital camera, negative undeveloped film and also from an Internet web site that allows the customer to access the images from an archive or from a different film processing system, See Fig. 1, Element 118; Col. 6, Line 28-Col. 7, Line 7), a request unit to input the data by using a touch screen monitor that allows the customer to customize the images to one's preference (See Fig. 1; Col. 4, Line 15-24), then if the images are ready to print and the customer does not want to have them printed instantaneously, the images can either be temporarily stored on the kiosk for a limited time period (See Col. 7, Line 55-Col. 8, Line 7) or printed and stored at an area controlled by the cashier (See Col. 8, Line 39-46) so that the user is able to retrieve the printed images once the transaction is completed (a receipt that includes a bar code is used to retrieve the printed images, See Col. 8, Line 41-44).

Cook ('655) does not disclose storing and locking the stored printed article using the certification information so it is possible to be opened whenever the certification information is inputted in order to open the locked storage unit.

Nishiwaki ('973) discloses storing and locking printed articles using the certification information (a personal identification number is used to retrieve the printout at the locked mailbox, See Col. 6, Line 9-19) so that it is also possible to open the locked storage unit by inputting the certification information (the user enters the number

in order to unlock the mailbox and remove the printouts stored therein, See Col. 6, Line 23-38).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant to include a storage unit, which is able to be opened and closed with certification information, such as the one disclosed by Nishiwaki ('973), and incorporate it into the image printing system of Cook ('655) because it provides security for printouts in order to prevent other customers from accessing them (See Nishiwaki ('973), Col. 1, Line 66-Col. 2, Line 2).

Regarding claim 10, as seen in Figure 1, Element 118 and Col. 6, Line 28-Col. 7, Line 18, Cook ('655) discloses the kiosk being able to input the images in many ways, such as undeveloped film, a scanner, an input signal such as a digital camera, video recorder, laptop computer, serial, parallel, and universal serial bus (USB) connection, a storage media such as a floppy disk, CD, DVD, and any other storage media, or by accessing the images using the Internet.

Regarding claim 11, Cook ('655) discloses the kiosk being able to input the image and edit, enhance, or correct it properly before it can be outputted (See Figure 1, Element 116; Col. 7, Line 19-25).

Regarding claim 12, Cook ('655) does not disclose designating a password as one pleases.

Nishiwaki ('973) discloses allowing a user to designate a password (personal identification number), which is used to unlock the storage unit (See Col. 6, Line 3-6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant to allow a designation of a password, such as the one disclosed within Nishiwaki ('973), and incorporate it into the image printing system of Cook ('655) because by having the user set a password, it allows only the user to personally create a password in order be able to open and retrieve the stored objects from the storage unit, which prevents an unauthorized user from gaining access to the storage unit.

Regarding claim 13, Cook ('655) does not disclose having the certification information setting unit include a password allocating unit for automatically giving a password.

Nishiwaki ('973) discloses the certification information (personal identification number) is automatically given to a user (See Col. 5, Line 61-Col. 6, Line 2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant to automatically designate a password, such as the one disclosed within Nishiwaki ('973), and incorporate it into the image printing system of Cook ('655) because by automatically giving a password, it allows only the user to know the password in order to be able to open and retrieve the stored objects from the storage unit as well as prevent an unauthorized user from gaining access to the storage unit.

Regarding claim 14, Cook ('655) does not disclose that the storage unit includes a storing box having a door with a lock and a key, which is the certification information.

Nishiwaki ('973) discloses that the storage unit includes a storing box (See Figure 4A) with a lock (See Figure 4B) that uses the certification information as the key to unlock the box (the password is used to open the storage unit, See Col. 6, Line 34-38).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include a storage unit that has a storing box with a lock that uses the certification information, such as the one disclosed within Nishiwaki ('973), and incorporate it into the image printing system of Cook ('655) because it prevents unauthorized users from opening the storage unit and removing the contents within.

Regarding claim 15, Cook ('655) does not disclose that the storage unit includes multiple storing spaces so that each can be locked independently with a key as well as a common ejection port to discharge the printed articles from the storage unit.

Nishiwaki ('973) discloses that the storage unit includes multiple storing spaces (See Figure 3) that can be locked separately and individually (See Col. 4, Line 49-55) and an ejection port to discharge the items (once the correct password is entered, the locker discharges the door open so that the items are able to be removed, See Col. 6, Line 25-30).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant to include multiple storage units with individual keys, such as the one disclosed within Nishiwaki ('973), and incorporate it into the image printing system of Cook ('655) because it allows multiple users to operate multiple storage units

as well as having each user set a unique password for each storage unit in order to prevent unauthorized users from gaining access to it and remove the contents stored.

Regarding claim 16, Cook ('655) discloses allowing the customer to either temporarily store the images on the kiosk for a limited time period (See Col. 7, Line 55-Col. 8, Line 7) if the images are ready to print and the customer does not want to have them printed instantaneously (See Col. 8, Line 41-43) or have the images printed and stored at an area controlled by the cashier (See Col. 8, Line 45-47) with the kiosk also issuing a receipt that allows the customer to pay and receive the printed images at a given time (See Col. 5, Line 25-37).

Cook ('655) does not disclose setting the certification information whenever the backyard printing is selected.

Nishiwaki ('973) discloses setting the certification information (a personal identification number, See Col. 6, Line 9-19) so that it is also possible to retrieve the printouts (See Col. 6, Line 23-38).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant to setting the certification information, such as the one disclosed by Nishiwaki ('973), and incorporate it into the image printing system of Cook ('655) because it provides security so that only the authorized user is able to retrieve the printouts.

Regarding claim 17, Cook ('655) discloses the system (kiosk, See Figure 1) with a main body (the self-service film processing system, See Figure 1, Element 100; Col. 3, Line 60-62) that includes the image data procurement unit (the image input data, See

Figure 1, Element 118), the request inputting unit (customer input device, See Figure 1, Element 116), the output content indicating data preparation unit (program to edit the digital images embodied within the main body, See Col. 7, Line 20-25), the output method choice (whether the user wants to temporarily store the images on the kiosk for a limited time period, See Col. 7, Line 55-Col. 8, Line 7, if the images are ready to print and the customer does not want to have them printed instantaneously, See Col. 8, Line 41-43, or have the images printed and stored at an area controlled by the cashier, See Col. 8, Line 45-47), the instantaneous printing unit (local printer to immediately obtain the images, See Col. 8, Line 41-43), and certification information setting unit (the receipt with the unique bar code, before allowing the user to receive the images, See Col. 5, Line 29-37). The backyard printing part is connected to the main body via a line (the printer is located in proximity to the system, such as a cashiers counter, in order to process the prints, See Col. 8, Line 40-47) and a stocker part (bar code scanner) is equipped with the certification inputting unit (it verifies the user prior to issuing the printed images, See Col. 5, Line 29-34).

Regarding claim 18, Cook ('655) discloses the main body (the self-service film processing system, See Figure 1, Element 100; Col. 3, Line 60-62) and the stocker part (bar code scanner) are connected via a line (in order to correctly identify the user, the bar code scanner has to be connected or attached from a line to the main body, See Col. 5, Line 29-34).

Regarding claim 19, Cook ('655) the main body (the self-service film processing system, See Figure 1, Element 100; Col. 3, Line 60-62), the backyard print and stocker

part are located in the same shop (they are located in the proximity to the film processing system, See Col. 8, 44-47 so the cashier can verify the customer using the bar code scanner, See Col. 5, Line 29-34).

Claim 20/1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook ('655) taken in view of Nardozzi ('837) and Vance ('874).

Regarding claim 20/1, Cook ('655) discloses an image printing system (self-service film processing system with a touch screen monitor, See Fig. 1; Col. 4, Line 15-24) with a printer located in the kiosk (See Fig. 1, Element 124c; Col. 8, Line 43-44).

Cook ('655) fails to show an overview image of the kiosk for the exact location of everything describe and also fails to point out if the monitor has the ability to be adjusted in height and tilt angle.

Nardozzi ('837) provides a figure of a kiosk that shows a monitor located at the upper side of the main body and displays information such as images and the like on the touch screen to help the customer complete the order with the various input devices located directly to the right of it (See Fig. 1 and Fig. 5A-5G).

Vance ('874) describes having a monitor that adjusts to the height of the user's eyes, either automatically by use of a camera, or manually (See Fig. 3; Col. 2, Line 34-42).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time of the invention by applicant to have the kiosk constructed similarly to the one suggested by Nardozzi ('837) and being more user-friendly such as having the monitor being located

at the upper side of the main body and also adjustable such as the one suggested by Vance ('874) that provide users with different heights a better and more helpful viewing experience.

Claim 23/1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook ('655) in view of Nardozzi ('837), Vance ('874), and Minamishin ('468).

Regarding claim 23/1, Cook ('655) discloses an image printing system (a self-service film processing system with a touch screen monitor, See Fig. 1; Col. 4, Line 15-24), with inlet ports connections, and storage media such as a CD or DVD-ROM which have an open/close cover to insert the media (See Fig.1, Element 118; Col. 6, Line 45-Col. 7, Line 2) so the user can input the images on the touch screen monitor, which displays image and character information to help choose anyone to edit (See Col. 4, Line 3-7), and finally output it in several different forms, one being a printer located in the kiosk (See Fig.1, Element 124c; Col. 8, Line 43-44).

Cook ('655) fails to show an overview image of the kiosk for the exact location of everything describe, also does not disclose an outlet port with an automatic open/close cover to retrieve the images, and fails to point out if the monitor has the ability to be adjusted in height and tilt angle.

Nardozzi ('837) provides a figure of a kiosk that shows a monitor located at the upper side of the main body and displays information such as images and the like on the touch screen to help the customer complete the order with various input devices located directly to the right of the display monitor (See Fig. 1 and Fig. 5A-5G).

Vance ('874) describes having a monitor that adjusts to the height of the user's eyes, either automatically by use of a camera, or manually (See Fig. 3; Col. 2, Line 34-42).

Minamishin ('468) discloses an ATM having a gate port to disperse money whenever a user wants to retrieve a certain amount (See Fig. 1; Col. 5, Line 11-16), and also has an operating mechanism for closing the gate port after the money is removed (See Fig. 1; Col. 6, Line 8-14).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time of the invention by applicant to have the kiosk constructed similarly to what was described by Nardozzi ('837) with a monitor that is more user friendly and adjustable to the person's height such as the one described by Vance ('874), and added an automatic open/close cover for the printed images such as the one described by Minamishin ('468) to prevent anyone stealing the printed images at the kiosk while someone is still there.

Claims 24-25/1 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook ('655) in view of Morba ('033).

Regarding claim 24/1, Cook ('655) discloses a kiosk being able to input an image from various sources, such as a digital camera (See Fig. 1, Element 118; Col. 6, Line 45-49), print it out onto the printer located within the kiosk (See Fig. 1, Element 124c; Col. 8, Line 43-44). Cook ('655) discloses cropping an image (See Col. 7, Line 20-25), but does not describe a way to align that image proportionally within the frame. It well known within the art that whenever an image is being cropped, the user has a box to

select a region to keep, then the remaining image can be realigned to the user's specification.

Cook ('655) fails to disclose a printer within the kiosk being able to adjust the edited image in proportion to the pre-cut paper before printing.

Morba ('033) describes a printing system that lets the user choose the desired dimensions of the image into any given size by using a cutting mechanism (See Fig. 1, Element 25; Col. 3, Line 48-49), and also uses a Micro Light Valve Array digital printer to scan a light containing the image data from the pre-cut sheets (See Col. 3, Line 57-67).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant to have the kiosk of Cook ('655) attach a cutting mechanism like the apparatus described by Morba ('033) in order to allow a user the opportunity to customize the size of any image by specifying the particular dimensions within the kiosk before aligning and printing out the image.

Regarding claim 25/1, Cook ('655) discloses a software program within the kiosk so the user is able to adjust, or edit, the image before it is outputted to the printer (See Col. 7, Line 19-22).

Cook ('655) does not disclose adjusting the image includes scaling, translocating, or rotating.

The examiner takes **OFFICIAL NOTICE** that editing an image includes scaling, translocating, or rotating. The reason is because an image might need to be scaled down in order to fit within the frame, located to another place to fit better within the

frame, or have the image rotated so it can be either a horizontal or vertical printout. Thus by incorporating these adjustments into the image printing system, it assists the user to enhance the image prior to outputting it.

Claim 26/1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook ('655) in view of Morba ('033) as applied to claim 24/1, and further in view of Otsuki ('096).

Regarding claim 26/1, Cook ('655) discloses cropping an image (See Col. 7, Line 20-25), but does not describe a way to align that image proportionally within the frame. It well known within the art that whenever an image is being cropped, the user has a box to select a region to keep, then the remaining image can be realigned to the user's specification.

Cook ('655) does not disclose detecting the transporting state of the pre-cut seal before printing and adjusting the printing where a deviation of the position is calculated for the printing position.

Morba ('033) discloses once the user selects the desired dimensions for the image (See Col. 3, Line 48-49), the sheet is first cut into the requested size prior to printing on it (See Col. 4, Line 8-10) so the printing position is able to be calculated, or scanned, in order to form an image on the sheet (See Col. 3, Line 57-67).

Otsuki ('096) discloses a deviation adjustment procedure (See Col. 10, Line 10-35) in order to determine if it corresponds to the stored value in the PROM within the printer to achieve the preferred corrected position (See Col. 10, Line 55-67).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant to have the kiosk of Cook ('655) include a detecting unit like the apparatus described by Morba ('033) and a standard deviation on Otsuki ('096) because it eliminates the user from having to cut the borderlines around the image once it is outputted from the kiosk and also adjust the image in order to include all the information whenever it is outputted.

Claim 27/1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook ('655) in view of Morba ('033) and Otsuki ('096) as applied to claim 26/1, and further in view of Wright ('478).

Regarding claim 27/1, Cook ('655) does not disclose a detection mark that is provided on the backside of the pre-cut seal.

Wright ('478) discloses a detection mark (chop mark, See Figure 1, Element 18) that is provided on the back in order to have the images cut (See Col. 3, Line 24-37).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant to have the kiosk of Cook ('655) include a detection mark on the back of the pre-cut seal, such as the one described by Wright ('478) because the kiosk is then able to detect the correct position the user requested from the detection mark on the back of the image, which eliminates any calculations errors for the image position.

Claim 20/9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook ('655) in view of Nishiwaki ('973) as applied to claim 9, and further in view of Nardozzi ('837) and Vance ('874).

Regarding claim 20/9, Cook ('655) discloses an image printing system (self-service film processing system with a touch screen monitor, See Fig. 1; Col. 4, Line 15-24) with a printer located in the kiosk (See Fig. 1, Element 124c; Col. 8, Line 43-44).

Cook ('655) fails to show an overview image of the kiosk for the exact location of everything describe and also fails to point out if the monitor has the ability to be adjusted in height and tilt angle.

Nardozzi ('837) provides a figure of a kiosk that shows a monitor located at the upper side of the main body and displays information such as images and the like on the touch screen to help the customer complete the order with the various input devices located directly to the right of it (See Fig. 1 and Fig. 5A-5G).

Vance ('874) describes having a monitor that adjusts to the height of the user's eyes, either automatically by use of a camera, or manually (See Fig. 3; Col. 2, Line 34-42).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time of the invention by applicant to have the kiosk constructed similarly to the one suggested by Nardozzi ('837) and being more user-friendly such as having the monitor being located at the upper side of the main body and also adjustable such as the one suggested by Vance ('874) that provide users with different heights a better and more helpful viewing experience.

Claim 23/9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook ('655) in view of Nishiwaki ('973) as applied to claim 9, and further in view of Nardozzi ('837), Vance ('874), and Minamishin ('468).

Regarding claim 23/9, Cook ('655) discloses an image printing system (a self-service film processing system with a touch screen monitor, See Fig. 1; Col. 4, Line 15-24), with inlet ports connections, and storage media such as a CD or DVD-ROM which have an open/close cover to insert the media (See Fig.1, Element 118; Col. 6, Line 45-Col. 7, Line 2) so the user can input the images on the touch screen monitor, which displays image and character information to help choose anyone to edit (See Col. 4, Line 3-7), and finally output it in several different forms, one being a printer located in the kiosk (See Fig.1, Element 124c; Col. 8, Line 43-44).

Cook ('655) fails to show an overview image of the kiosk for the exact location of everything describe, also does not disclose an outlet port with an automatic open/close cover to retrieve the images, and fails to point out if the monitor has the ability to be adjusted in height and tilt angle.

Nardozzi ('837) provides a figure of a kiosk that shows a monitor located at the upper side of the main body and displays information such as images and the like on the touch screen to help the customer complete the order with various input devices located directly to the right of the display monitor (See Fig. 1 and Fig. 5A-5G).

Vance ('874) describes having a monitor that adjusts to the height of the user's eyes, either automatically by use of a camera, or manually (See Fig. 3; Col. 2, Line 34-42).

Minamishin ('468) discloses an ATM having a gate port to disperse money whenever a user wants to retrieve a certain amount (See Fig. 1; Col. 5, Line 11-16), and also has an operating mechanism for closing the gate port after the money is removed (See Fig. 1; Col. 6, Line 8-14).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time of the invention by applicant to have the kiosk constructed similarly to what was described by Nardozzi ('837) with a monitor that is more user friendly and adjustable to the person's height such as the one described by Vance ('874), and added an automatic open/close cover for the printed images such as the one described by Minamishin ('468) to prevent anyone stealing the printed images at the kiosk while someone is still there.

Claims 24-25/9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook ('655) in view of Nishiwaki ('973) as applied to claim 9, and further in view of Morba ('033).

Regarding claim 24/9, Cook ('655) discloses a kiosk being able to input an image from various sources, such as a digital camera (See Fig. 1, Element 118; Col. 6, Line 45-49), print it out onto the printer located within the kiosk (See Fig. 1, Element 124c; Col. 8, Line 43-44). Cook ('655) discloses cropping an image (See Col. 7, Line 20-25), but does not describe a way to align that image proportionally within the frame. It well known within the art that whenever an image is being cropped, the user has a box to select a region to keep, then the remaining image can be realigned to the user's specification.

Cook ('655) fails to disclose a printer within the kiosk being able to adjust the edited image in proportion to the pre-cut paper before printing.

Morba ('033) describes a printing system that lets the user choose the desired dimensions of the image into any given size by using a cutting mechanism (See Fig. 1, Element 25; Col. 3, Line 48-49), and also uses a Micro Light Valve Array digital printer to scan a light containing the image data from the pre-cut sheets (See Col. 3, Line 57-67).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant to have the kiosk of Cook ('655) attach a cutting mechanism like the apparatus described by Morba ('033) in order to allow a user the opportunity to customize the size of any image by specifying the particular dimensions within the kiosk before aligning and printing out the image.

Regarding claim 25/9, Cook ('655) discloses a software program within the kiosk so the user is able to adjust, or edit, the image before it is outputted to the printer (See Col. 7, Line 19-22).

Cook ('655) does not disclose adjusting the image includes scaling, translocating, or rotating.

The examiner takes **OFFICIAL NOTICE** that editing an image includes scaling, translocating, or rotating. The reason is because an image might need to be scaled down in order to fit within the frame, located to another place to fit better within the frame, or have the image rotated so it can be either a horizontal or vertical printout.

Thus by incorporating these adjustments into the image printing system, it assists the user to enhance the image prior to outputting it.

Claim 26/9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook ('655) in view of Nishiwaki ('973) and Morba ('033) as applied to claim 24/9, and further in view of Otsuki ('096).

Regarding claim 26/9, Cook ('655) discloses cropping an image (See Col. 7, Line 20-25), but does not describe a way to align that image proportionally within the frame. It well known within the art that whenever an image is being cropped, the user has a box to select a region to keep, then the remaining image can be realigned to the user's specification.

Cook ('655) does not disclose detecting the transporting state of the pre-cut seal before printing and adjusting the printing where a deviation of the position is calculated for the printing position.

Morba ('033) discloses once the user selects the desired dimensions for the image (See Col. 3, Line 48-49), the sheet is first cut into the requested-size prior to printing on it (See Col. 4, Line 8-10) so the printing position is able to be calculated, or scanned, in order to form an image on the sheet (See Col. 3, Line 57-67).

Otsuki ('096) discloses a deviation adjustment procedure (See Col. 10, Line 10-35) in order to determine if it corresponds to the stored value in the PROM within the printer to achieve the preferred corrected position (See Col. 10, Line 55-67).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant to have the kiosk of Cook ('655) include a detecting unit like the apparatus described by Morba ('033) and a standard deviation on Otsuki ('096) because it eliminates the user from having to cut the borderlines around the image once it is outputted from the kiosk and also adjust the image in order to include all the information whenever it is outputted.

Claim 27/9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook ('655) in view of Nishiwaki ('973), Morba ('033) and Otsuki ('096) as applied to claim 26/9, and further in view of Wright ('478).

Regarding claim 27/9, Cook ('655) does not disclose a detection mark that is provided on the backside of the pre-cut seal.

Wright ('478) discloses a detection mark (chop mark, See Figure 1, Element 18) that is provided on the back in order to have the images cut (See Col. 3, Line 24-37).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant to have the kiosk of Cook ('655) include a detection mark on the back of the pre-cut seal, such as the one described by Wright ('478) because the kiosk is then able to detect the correct position the user requested from the detection mark on the back of the image, which eliminates any calculations errors for the image position.

Claims 35-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cook ('655) taken in view Minamishin ('468).

Regarding claims 35-36, Cook ('655) discloses a kiosk that has the ability to print out digital images at the machine itself from various inlet port connections and storage media, such as a CD or DVD-ROM and also has an open/close cover to insert the media so the user can input the images, edit, and output them (See Col. 6, Line 45-Col. 7, Line 2).

Cook ('655) fails to describe an outlet port with an automatic open/close cover to retrieve the printed images whenever the user wants them printed instantaneously.

Minamishin ('468) discloses an ATM having a gate port to disperse money whenever a user wants to retrieve a certain amount (See Fig. 1; Col. 5, Line 11-16), and also has an operating mechanism for closing the gate port after the money is removed (See Fig. 1; Col. 6, Line 8-14).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in this art at the time of the invention by applicant to have applied an automatic open/close cover such as the one suggested by Minamishin ('468) added to the kiosk of Cook ('655) if a payment method was done at the kiosk and the instantaneous printing was chosen, the printed images cannot be removed until task is completed to prevent anyone from removing them without the customer's knowledge.

Response to Arguments

Applicant argues that the card reader, which is disclosed as part of the payment system, has no description for using it as the customer information inputting means, and

even if so, the information acquired by the card reader should be treated as confidential information that is used only by the credit card company. The prior art of Cook discloses that the private information of the customer is capable to be done by the system since the user has to only insert the card to be identified (See Col. 5, Line 9-14). Since the card reader is not able to disclose the number because it is private information for use only by the credit card company, other information after inserting the credit card and printing onto a receipt that is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art includes the last four digits of the credit card number used and the cardholder's name. Thus, the kiosk system is able to store the customer information within it in order to identify the customer whenever issuing the receipt note as well as to identify the customer prior to outputting the collation sheet. As a result, the prior art of Cook is able to meet the limitations of the claim.

Also, the applicant argues if the customer loses the receipt, the identification of the customer is not possible. Though, in the event the customer does lose the receipt, he/she is able to bring up the private information, such as certain customer information, at the system as proof of oneself in order to retrieve the images (See Col. 6, Line 21-27).

Applicant argues that there is no motivation to combine Cook with the prior art of Mardon since there is no printing system within Mardon. Thus, the prior art of Nishiwaki is used in combination with Cook to meet the limitations of the claim. Nishiwaki discloses storing and locking printed articles using the certification information (See Col. 6, Line 9-19) so that it is also possible to open the locked storage unit by inputting the

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certification information (See Col. 6, Line 23-38). By incorporating this into the image printing system of Cook, it provides security for printouts in order to prevent other customers from accessing them. As a result, the combined prior art is able to meet the limitations of the claims.

Based on these facts as well as incorporating a new reference into the rejection without the applicant amending the claims, **this action is made NON-FINAL.**

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure is: Robey ('538).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vincent M. Rudolph whose telephone number is (571) 272-8243. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Aung Moe can be reached on (571) 272-7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

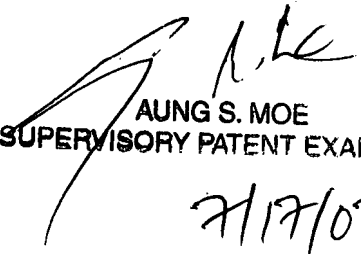
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7/17/07

VME

Vincent M. Rudolph
Examiner
Art Unit 2625


AUNG S. MOE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
7/17/07